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The Coal Strike Threat

In his statement on the eve of the assembling of the convention of the United Mine Workers John L. Lewis, president of the organization, revived hopes recently drooping by saying that the miners do not desire a strike and will do all they can to avert one.

Yet, in spite of this mild and non-provocative declaration, the prospect is gravely menacing. While the miners will probably withdraw their demand for an increase in wages, no sign is given of any willingness to accept a reduction. On the other hand, the operators are grimly getting ready for a protracted struggle. The outlook is that they will insist on lessened production costs as a foundation for the lower coal prices to consumers deemed necessary to develop a volume of business that will give larger net profits than a small volume.

If there is a strike on April 1 the question, on the answer to which will probably determine the strike's success or failure, is the one of whether or not the miners are entitled to their present wages. Superficially their case is weak. It is no longer seriously denied that living costs are down and that wage rates generally, although the downward movement has been slower, are also down. Why is the miner, it is asked, alone deserving of war wage rates which others no longer get? In the main, what he pockets comes out of the purses of other wage-workers.

But the case is not so simple as at first appears. Mr. Lewis, taking the yearly income of miners as his basis of calculation, is able to show that the miner's average weekly compensation is not up so much as is commonly supposed. The operation of the mines is irregular. The wage rate may be high, but idleness keeps low the fund the miner's wife has to spend. The public, not distinguishing between what a man gets per year and what he gets on some days, is confused.

The truth seems to be that the mining industry, especially in the bituminous fields, is overmanned. Unless a miner is able to secure other work or has a garden or small farm on which to labor, he is often in a bad plight. Yet to induce men to change their accustomed occupations is a serious business. It can't be done overnight.

With each side looking at its special grievance and the public keenly finding fuel costly, an all-around soreness develops which makes settlement difficult. Never was there greater call for a ministry of good will or more need for calm valuation of complicated facts.

Too Much Tolerance

No intelligent person doubts the social value of organized investment markets. Honest speculation performs a public service. Eliminate Wall Street, and business stagnation must result. The desire for profit is not only natural, but wholesome, for it energizes the machine. It is this desire that causes some men to embark in important business enterprises and other men to seek partnership in these enterprises by purchasing their securities. The buying and selling of stocks is as necessary to prosperity as the buying and selling of grain, or of cattle, or of merchandise, or of real estate.

Most of the demagogic attacks upon Wall Street are thus wholly unjustified. Most of them are made by men who know nothing of economics and have no understanding of business. They have, however, gradually built up a prejudice against the stock exchanges and the boards of trade which is shared by many thousands of people.

This prejudice is stimulated by every disclosure of crooked operations such as those which have been lately made concerning the bucketshops. Bucketshop swindlers, it is true, victimize only the foolish. But, unfortunately, the foolish still exist in very large numbers. Their folly is hardly an excuse for bilking them.

No fair-minded person will charge that the stock exchanges are directly to blame for the existence of swindlers who infest the Wall Street district, but there is no doubt that indirectly they are to some extent responsible.

Reputable firms, for example, accept orders from houses which they know to be disreputable. Men known to be bucketshop proprietors and suspected, at least, of being crooked are countenanced by members of firms whose own standards are high. There is far too much tolerance among brokers of shady institutions and shady individuals.

Thus far no law has succeeded in abolishing the bucketshop. Wall Street men have often sought such a law. They have complained bitterly that the natural prejudice against the bucketshop has injured honest and necessary institutions. Yet they continue upon friendly terms with the very men of whom they complain.

If every brokerage firm whose transactions are bona fide and whose methods are honorable would treat the bucketshop men as outcasts, refusing either to trade with them or to tolerate them, the bucketshop evil would be very largely mitigated.

The honest brokers are right who say they suffer for the sins of swindlers and sharpers. They can do a great deal toward ending these sufferings by driving the thieves from their neighborhood and giving a warm welcome to rules that effectively protect legitimate investors and speculators.

A Profitable Committee

In its financial report to the Legislature the Lockwood committee, justifying its expenditures, estimates that it has saved $280,000,000 to the rent payers of New York.

Though the figure is large and suggests that the committee's statistician is a relative of the one who instructed Senator Borah as to the cost of bonuses, nevertheless it will be admitted that the Lockwood committee was an excellent investment, worth much more than it cost. The rent gougers were whetting their scythes for a harvest when the committee became active, and the way they hate the committee sufficiently attests its merit. Its handling of predatory organizations of business and of labor was highly deterrent and made the cost of home building more humane.

To what degree rents have been kept down is, of course, a matter of dispute—probably not so much as supposed, for rents are up. But the abiding interests of tenement owners were served by the slow advance which prevented a runaway market, with a corresponding drop when the boom burst. It is to the credit of the Lockwood committee that it muckraked little and did not attempt a head-on collision with economic law.

The committee has done well—has helped to restore faith in the integrity of government. Why, then, the effort at Albany to get rid of the committee?

Whitewashing the Guilty

In a recent issue of "The Freeman" an effort was made by Charles A. Beard to shift Germany's war guilt to the shoulders of Russia, France and Great Britain. Mr. Beard was reviewing a book, "Les Responsables de la Guerre," by a French author, M. Alfred Pevet, in which the latter gave copious extracts from Russian diplomatic papers, especially from those of M. Iswolsky, former Russian Ambassador to France.

The thesis of the review is that "Russian diplomats by 1908 had firmly resolved to break up the Austro-Hungarian Empire, and for six years they bent every energy to that enterprise." Russia had a grievance against Austria-Hungary because of the latter's annexation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, in defiance of the Treaty of Berlin.

Russia was a weak power after the Russo-Japanese War, and that weakness was taken advantage of by Vienna. Russia was still weak in a military sense in 1914—far too feeble to have any hopes of breaking up the Dual Monarchy and the Triple Alliance by an offensive against them. The Triple Entente existed, but it was defensive in character, not offensive. France was poorly prepared for war. Great Britain wasn't prepared at all, except at sea.

Who started the war? Austria-Hungary attacked Serbia, after presenting an ultimatum based on the fact that the Austro-Hungarian heir-apparent had been assassinated on Austro-Hungarian soil by an Austro-Hungarian subject. Russia protested and declared partial mobilization. Germany, thoroughly prepared for war, then mobilized and declared war on Russia.

In the brief negotiations preceding the war Germany was the chief factor in preventing a diplomatic settlement of the Serbian question. Austria-Hungary struck the first blow—at Serbia—but hesitated to go further. Germany struck the second blow, bringing in Russia and France, and the third blow, at Belgium, bringing in Great Britain. The two Teuton powers were so plainly the aggressors that their associate, Italy, rightly held herself absolved from the obligations of the Triple Alliance.

Iswolsky and other Russian diplomats may have looked forward with some satisfaction to a European war. The Czar did not. The Russian government didn't begin the war. Nor did the Triple Entente will the war. It certainly wasn't ready for it when it came. Germany had been laboriously keyed up to the great venture. These are the plain facts of history. They cannot be altered by scattering evidence that some of the Entente leaders felt that the German attack could not long be staved off and were beginning in a loose way to organize against it.

A New Ruling Power

The Interstate Commerce Commission, originally conceived of as a judicial body with administrative functions, and since 1907 as an administrative body with quasi judicial duties, has become more and more a body adjudicative of great economic and social questions.

It was given the power by the transportation act to fix the division of rates between railroads participating in a joint through rate. The New England railroads thereupon applied to the commission for a larger share of the through rate on freight moving into and out of New England. The commission held a series of hearings, and on the evidence submitted refused to give the New England roads a larger division.

But yesterday the commission, after having on its own motion reopened the case, reversed its decision and granted the New England railroads an increase of 15 per cent over the amount which they are now receiving out of a joint rate. This means no increase of rates to the consumer; it merely takes from the trunk lines and other connecting railroads something which it gives to the New England railroads.

The commission reversed itself without calling for or receiving any additional evidence. Furthermore, it included not only the rates which had been considered in the original application, but also the rates on anthracite, on which no evidence whatsoever had been submitted. Here was a long step beyond the practices of a judicial body.

The government's credit was extended to the New Haven to the extent of many millions of dollars to avert a receivership. Now another branch of the government takes from the stockholders of the trunk lines and gives to the stockholders of the New England lines. Is this a forecast of the commission's attitude toward other roads to which the government made loans?

Probably the commission would sidestep a direct answer by saying that the New England situation is immensely complicated and involves not only the credit of one road, but the interests of a large group of honest investors and manufacturers, who furnish work to a large population. The intentions of the commission are doubtless excellent, but a government body, no less than an individual, once yielding to the temptation of expediency, finds it harder and harder to resist new demands based on expediency.

For the commission to take charge of the country is of dangerous tendency. It is in the attitude of the government during the war. Persisted in, it may lead to the creation of a bureaucratic tyranny, one of the worst of all forms of government.

The Sick Are Not Felons

In his annual report John S. Kennedy, Commissioner of New York State Prisons, urges the adoption of a recommendation by Dr. Ernest S. Bishop that steps be taken to care for non-criminal narcotic drug addicts outside of penal institutions. Dr. Bishop, an able authority on the narcotic drug problem, made his recommendation as consulting physician to the Prison Commission.

The non-criminal narcotic drug addict by his very plea for treatment proves that he has a social conscience and would conquer his habit. He deserves from society better treatment than is accorded felons. A hospital is the place for him—not a prison.

New York has admitted a responsibility for sufferers from drug addiction by deputing to magistrates authority to commit for treatment any addict who applies. But a jail is not the place to send them. Hospitalization would cost little more and do vastly more good.

A Shortage of Observation

There is alarm because a recent inquiry has shown that only 46 per cent of twenty thousand high school pupils could answer questions about football, baseball and the movies. It seems to be argued that if high school pupils are not informed on these important matters they are likely to know still less about history, politics and current events. This reasoning was correct.

Forty-three out of sixty-nine New York pupils had never heard of Charles G. Dawes. Thirty did not know of Myron T. Herrick. Twenty were unable to identify Andrew D. Mellon. To ten of each hundred the name of Elihu Root meant nothing whatever, and twenty-one were oblivious to the existence of Henry Ford.

The test proved generally that about half the pupils at high schools do not read the newspapers, which is not at all complimentary to the teaching methods employed in the schools, and perhaps not complimentary to the newspapers themselves.

The interest of growing children can be directed readily to the news of the day. Their natural curiosity can be aroused to instruct them in current events. If they are taught while still young to read newspapers they will continue to read the newspapers throughout their lives. And intelligent newspaper readers are always well informed.

Every teacher who devotes at least a few minutes each day to discussing the day's news or to the reading of newspaper articles can be rewarded amply by the growing alertness of the minds committed to his or her care.

We could if we chose suggest the newspaper which endeavors to be the best fitted for this purpose, but its name will occur, let us hope, to the brightest teachers in the schools without any specific mention.

The Far-Flung Bathtub

Love of his far-flung bathtub practically precludes the Anglo-Saxon from achieving greatness in the arts, says one of our poets. He may rule the seas and the banks of the world, but it is not for him to rule the soul, which he apparently assumes cleaves to dirt.

The alleged incompatibility between water and art fails completely to explain why poets so often resent the rite of the cold plunge. Yet, for some reason, the thought of the hardy Anglo-Saxon rising in the early morning and leaping gladly into a cold tub is particularly offensive to makers of verse. They argue that only a callous soul can be harbored within a skin thick enough to endure the morning splash without agony. Such a one, they hold, can never be a lover of the delicate arts.

If so, it bodes ill for the æsthetic future of America. Although the Englishman has taken the bathtub to the uttermost ends of the earth, he never yet has assigned to it the position of importance which the bathroom and all its concomitants hold in America. To the Britisher his rubber tub is a symbol of his civilization, and he looks upon the non-washing peoples with calm scorn. But the American has come to judge the degree of his own and all civilizations by the condition of the plumbing.

If the poet is right, is it not safe to assume that the members of the new school of American fiction writers bathe constantly?

Drug Facts Wanted

Doubt That Prohibition Has Increased Use of Narcotics

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: I noted in The Tribune the account of the meeting of the Women's Democratic Club, at which Miss Elisabeth Marbury, the chairman, made the statement—it was reported—that prohibition had increased drug addiction. I should be grateful to Miss Marbury if she would tell us on what she bases this assertion. I am national legislative chairman for a body representing 300 000 members interested in laws affecting drugs. Several years ago I heard that prohibition had increased drug taking in the South. I went myself to Richmond, Va., and to Charleston, S. C., and got the records, which showed that drug arrests had not increased under prohibition there.

It is my belief that, generally speaking, men come to alcohol by the road of pleasure, to drugs by the road of pain. They are, in the main, different propositions.

As for the lady who declared that she never drank till prohibition—as if that fact were quite sufficient reason to overthrow a law passed in orderly fashion by Congress and ratified by forty-five states—I most earnestly ask her (if she was reported correctly) to think what will become of a country that has no respect for majority rule, but puts in its place one-man prejudice. Such a country cannot survive, and if the idea of the Democrats is to run a campaign on the extolling of lawbreaking, can the Democratic party survive?

I am not a Democrat, but I have seen much vision (without which the people perish) arise from the Democratic party.

I therefore ask the women who would lead it whether they think their meeting sent out to the world that which the Democrats claim to have—the vision, without which the people perish?

ELIZABETH TILTON,
Legislative Chairman, Congress of Mothers and Parent-Teacher Associations.
Marblehead, Mass., Feb. 11, 1922.

California for "Old Fellows"

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: You give Dr. Copeland as authority for the statement that in 1921 241 more persons died of cancer and 604 more of heart disease than in 1920.

As a druggist and a close observer, sixty-five years of age, I give it as my opinion that cancer and heart disease are not affected by sanitation, but by activity and dieting—that the prosperity of New York is the reason of these increases in the death rate.

The younger and more energetic do not realize this as much as older persons, many of whom have experienced heart palpitations of more or less serious nature. Advise your old fellows that have begun to experience some irregularities of heart motion to come out to California, where they can jog around outdoors every day in the year. Of course, they will have to wear rubbers and raincoats some days, but will not fall on the ice. I believe California wetness does not contribute to heart failure as much as New York wetness. L. S.

Whittier, Calif., Feb. 5, 1922.

The Tower

YEARS OF DISCRETION

BEFORE the bleak era by Providence set,
When arteries harden and blood becomes chill,
And feminine glances no longer beget
The ancient, acquisitive, infidel thrill;
Ere old man Senility works his grim will,
And exercise holds a continual threat
Of anguish sciatic or similar ill,
And Folly, alluring, no longer is met;

Before bright Temptation's provocative eye,
Hinting of things that a man shouldn't do,
Peers at my visage and passes me by,
Seeking a face that's more youthful in hue;
Before the ablution of bootleggers' brew
Leaves my œsophagus arid and wry,
And the songs of the muse whom I formerly knew
Find my old eyes unresponsive and dry;

Ere joy has been vanquished by quavering fears
And lure of good liquor, of lyric and lass
Are gone, and my ancient and withering ears
No longer prick up as the April winds pass,
And swift the sand ebbs in the emptying glass,
And somber and gloomy existence appears;
And I sit and I moan that all flesh is but grass—
I hope I've been dead for some seventeen years.

"They might settle this here bonus question," says Uncle Abimelech Bogardus, of Preakness, N. J., "by takin' 10 per cent of the profits every man of fightin' age made out of the war."

The repetitions of history become wearisome after a whole. Here's William Jennings Bryan making motions as though he were about to run for office again, and the last good joke in this connection was used up early in 1904.

Maybe he's thinking of running for Senator instead of President merely to show his scorn of the principles of evolution.

The persistence with which the frequently implored customers continue to send in stamps makes us waver in our adherence to the theory of an educational development of humanity from the clod.

We're against this move to limit the speed of homicidal motor trucks to fifteen miles an hour. If it's got to happen to us we'd rather have it over with as quickly as possible.

Throckmorton at Play

F. F. V.: In the fierce light which beats down upon her more famous husband Mrs. J. Throckmorton Cush is sometimes overlooked, but not, however, by Mr. Cush himself. In fact, in the household budget system which they have kept religiously ever since they found out what the word meant, the sum of $1.50 a week is frankly set aside for "amusements and recreations." Instead of "dribbling it away in small sums" they have found that they get much more fun by saving it up for "one big spree" every month.

On these affairs they are joined by their friends and neighbors, Mr. and Mrs. Blump, the foursome calling themselves the "Just-Us Club." At 5 o'clock on the fatal day Mr. Cush says to Mr. Blump: "You go up and make sure they've saved the tickets and I'll go over to the train and meet the girls."

Mr. Blump is the comedian of these excursions. While waiting in the concourse for the 12:01 he reduces "the girls" almost to hysterics by giving, in an undertone, a perfectly killing imitation of a train caller. On New Year's eve they dined at "one of those little French places" where paper caps were given away as souvenirs, and on the train going home Mr. Blump insisted on putting his on, right in the car.

Mr. Cush smiled tolerantly, but when they got home Mrs. Cush and he agreed that Mr. Blump had "gone just a little too far." Mr. Cush even talked seriously of "cutting out these wild parties altogether" and saving the money for a trip to Bermuda, but in the morning they wisely agreed "just to let the matter drop." PHILIP CURTISS.

Mr. Cush steers clear of serious dramas. He goes to the theater to be amused, he says. He is fond of musical comedy, but finds so little of it "clean" that he once was moved to write a letter to his favorite paper on the subject, signed "Pro Bono Publico." The paper published three paragraphs of it and since then Mr. Cush has read the dramatic criticisms with a patronizing air.

IF

If you would have me love you, sweet,
Until my flesh in dust doth rot
And life's grim cycle is complete—
Then love me not.

If you would have me kiss you, sweet,
When night has overtaken day,
With twinkling eyes—then lift your feet
And run away.

If you would have me speak, my love,
The words that are for you alone,
Give me, I pray, the number of
Your telephone.

PHLIP.

Now it's some one in Chicago who has got the life savings of hundreds by promising 40 per cent interest, and we wonder that Mrs. Sanger doesn't add to the articles of her creed the restoration of the birth rate to one every minute.

With the sunlight of the last week so diluted with murk and mist and sleet and rain, it's strange that the weather man hasn't been mobbed before this.

Of course, he might come out and shift responsibility by offering a $100 bounty on ground hogs. F. F. V.

THE PERSISTENT SUITOR

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Abating Blindness

Decrease in Proportion to Population—Census Figures Low

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: Great interest is being shown all over the world in the figures of the United States Bureau of the Census of the Blind for 1920—52,617 blind persons, as against 57,272 in 1910. The National Committee for the Prevention of Blindness is naturally keenly appreciative of the comment of the report which suggests that a decrease in preventable blindness is indicated as a result of improvement in medical knowledge and of the education of the public.

The committee is confident from its experience and investigations that blindness from preventable causes, especially blindness from babies' sore eyes, has decreased perceptibly in proportion to the increase in population during the last decade. Indeed, if this were not so the committee would be deeply conscious that its energies and the funds placed at its command had been misdirected.

It cannot, however, accept the figures of the census as even approximating the actual number of the blind. It has always contended that the census figures of 1910 were altogether too conservative.

In the United States census of 1920 New York State is reported as having a blind population of 4,205 persons. The New York State Commission for the Blind has nearly completed a registration of all the blind persons in the state. To date 10,982 have been registered, with one county still to be heard from. The commission does not consider this figure final, since verification of every name on the list by the field agent has not yet been made. The commission has, however, verified the lists for the counties of New York, Bronx, Kings, Queens and Richmond (composing greater New York), and finds a total of 5,556 blind persons.

Thus in New York City alone there are 1,351 more blind than shown by the United States census for the entire state. Judging from the verifications already made and allowing for all possible discrepancies, such as duplication of names, erroneous listing of one-eyed persons as blind, etc., the commission is confident that the final lists will total well over 9,000 blind persons in the state—that is, more than double the United States census figures. Should the same proportion hold in other states the list of the blind will more nearly approximate 105,000 than 52,617.

In considering these figures several items must be taken into account: First, that the figures of the 1910 census were evidently quite as conservative as those of 1920; hence, though the actual number of blind in the United States at the present time does reach the lamentable total of 105,000, this doubtless represents not only an actual decrease in number, but an even greater decrease in proportion to the increase in population; second, that there was a great increase in the number of industrial workers employed in hazardous occupations in the decade, especially during the war; third, that the war blind constitute a group the cause of whose blindness is, we trust, confined to the decade.

The united efforts of national, state and local safety organizations and of the National Committee for the Prevention of Blindness, together with the improved conditions under which accident compensation is administered, are tending to reduce eye accidents in the industries, heretofore one of the chief sources of preventable blindness. Many public health agencies are directing their energies to the elimination of social diseases, another of the leading causes of preventable blindness and deterioration of sight; efforts being made along other lines are too numerous to enumerate here. Recognition of the fact that blindness from preventable causes has decreased during the last decade despite the unusual consequences, direct or indirect, of a great war should encourage not only to continued effort, but to an even greater output of energy to eliminate every possible cause of needless deprivation of the power to see.

WINNIFRED HATHAWAY,
Secretary National Committee for the Prevention of Blindness.
New York, Feb. 11, 1922.

Spreading the Bonus Tax

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: Who in politics would be so fair and yet so bold as to propose a tax on illuminating gas and electricity to raise money for the bonus? These flow silently and usefully into dwelling and business places, into which also come bonus-mad newspapers, and where people are who cannot have automobiles, nor yet are interested in the transfer of stocks and bonds.

A gift from the nation to its ex-soldiers should be paid by most of its people and should be levied on necessaries if it is to be a test of willingness to pay. Most of the agitation for the bonus would cease if the people whose vote politicians seek could conscionsly share the pinch of the shoe.

I do not believe in the giving of a bonus to ex-service men in general. It makes me think of the story of the woman who thought her charge accounts in two stores were too large, so she opened accounts in seven. The pro-bonus arguments are equally absurd, and I think that if a tax on gas and electricity were proposed by some one in authority the people could be trusted to see the light.

EQUITY.

Brooklyn, Feb. 12, 1922.

Sproul and MacNider

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: It is refreshing to see that, despite the cynicism which regards all men in public life as self-seekers, we can still boast a few such as Governor Sproul of Pennsylvania and Colonel MacNider, of the American Legion, who place their self-respect above their political ambitions.

The honorable self-denial of these men, for the excellent motives evident in both cases, will lift them to a higher pinnacle of public esteem than would have been the case if they had followed the line of least resistance and accepted Senatorial honors under conditions which only persons of the highest type of public morality would have recognized as improper.

JAMES F. MORTON Jr.

New York, Feb. 12, 1922.

Boston's First Mayor

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: Allow me to correct the statement in your issue of February 12 that Tudor Jenks, author and attorney, was "the great-grandson of Phillips Brooks, first Mayor of Boston." John Phillips, who died May 29, 1823, was the first Mayor of Boston and the great-grandfather of Tudor Jenks. Phillips Brooks, who died January 23, 1893, a clergyman and later Bishop of the Episcopal Church, was a kinsman and never married. ANNA PHILLIPS WILLIAMS.

Boston, Mass., Feb. 12, 1922.

More Truth Than Poetry

By James J. Montague

The Cheer Up Man

You weaken in the grip of flu,
Your pulses throb and jerk;
Your funds are low, your rent is due,
You can't get down to work.
A headache makes you want to yell,
Your tongue is white and furry,
A friend drops in and says, "Well! Well!
It will not do to worry!"

You slip and break your collar bone
And bruise your blessed head,
And think with a despairing moan
Of six long weeks in bed.
Your friend comes up and says, "Old scout,
No virtue in repining;
Although you're down, you're never out:
So seek the silver lining."

The girl you thought was fond and true
(Such incidents occur)
Decides that she can't marry you
And weds her dad's chauffeur.
Your friend observes, "Cheer up, old chap,
No cause at all for sorrow!
It all is for the best, mayhap;
So better luck to-morrow!"

As long as his luck isn't bad
And he is safe and sound
His friends can count upon this lad
To scatter sunbeams 'round.
His optimism is sublime,
The noblest instincts fill him;
In spite of which, you mean some time
To take an ax and kill him.

Tough Outlook for Mr. Anderson

Pretty soon there will be nothing left to prohibit but prohibition.

Nobody Will Object

"Alaska Could Pay for the War."—Secretary Fall. Well, why doesn't it?

Inexperienced

Young John D. says it is hard to give away millions. He ought to have taken a short course of instruction from the United States Shipping Board.

Copyright by James J. Montague

The Highlands Postmastership

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: A letter appearing in a recent issue of your paper sent by Robert Emmet Ward, Highlands, N. C., signed "Well Wisher," is absolutely unjust, and I wish to enter a protest. We are not an illiterate or uneducated community and that letter was not written by an illiterate, but by some one posing as such.

The "grand postmaster" in question is the only candidate who stood the civil service examination and made an average of 80. He has been indorsed by a majority of the Republicans of Highlands. We have thrown over the old spoils system of politics and know that civil service gives us efficiency. "Kind-hearted Will Hays" being a most just and efficient Postmaster, the question is safe in his hands.

CHARLOTTE B. ELLIOTT.

Highlands, N. C., Feb. 9, 1922.

The Vanished Smile

(From The Topeka Capital)

Mayor Hylan of New York ordered New Yorkers to "carry a smile" while he was gone. But with Hylan not there what has New York to smile at?